

TOWN OF GRANBY
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
March 12, 2014

PRESENT: Michelle Niedermeyer, Pam Burek, Erin Pirro, Lucy Lindeyer

Others: Kate Bogli, Terri Ann Hahn

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Farm Day

Pam Burek distributed updated planning documents for Open Farm Day. The committee reviewed the list of farms participating (12 so far) and the list of sponsors (4 so far). Lucy Lindeyer will contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if any members are interested in being sponsors. Deadline for sponsors (in order to be included on the save-the date postcard) is April 1.

Erin Pirro distributed a draft of the save-the-date postcard.

ON A MOTION by Pam Burek, seconded by Erin Pirro, the postcard design was unanimously approved.

Erin Pirro requested that all farms participating in Open farm Day should provide a short farm bio for the Granby Ag website.

Terri Ann Hahn reported that the Grange will do a chicken barbeque on Friday night and reported on the Grange Agricultural Fair.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning for Agriculture, A Guide for CT Municipalities

Michelle Niedermeyer distributed a 4 page assessment guide and requested that all commission members read through it and be prepared for a substantive discussion at the next meeting. She is hoping to have the Commission complete the assessment and report back to the Board of Selectman at a future meeting

Planning & Zoning Recommendations

Michelle requested that each member read through the P&Z regulations to look for any items pertaining to agriculture which might need to be amended.

CT Ag Day

The Department of Agriculture is hosting CT Ag Day at the state capital on Wednesday, March 19. The Granby Agricultural Commission will have a table there.

Agriculture Commission Conference

Erin Pirro reported that the 3rd annual CT Agriculture Commission Conference will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014. An information flyer was distributed. Lucy Lindeyer will attend.

MINUTES

ON A MOTION by seconded by Pam Burek, the minutes of the November meeting were approved. (3-0-1)

OTHER BUSINESS

Erin Pirro reported a hearing is scheduled for on Monday March 17 on House Bill 5416, (AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN ENCLOSURES FOR GESTATING SOWS.) Erin stated that this bill, proposed by the Humane Society of the United States, is a fright tactic by a group whose goal is to abolish animal agriculture. She suggested that the Granby Agricultural Commission draft a letter of opposition to the bill.

ON A MOTION by Lucy Lindeyer, 2nd by Pam Burek, all members present voted to write a letter defining non-support of HB 5416 to be sent to the Environment Committee's public hearing.

Pam Burek reminded the Commission that a vote had not been taken to give a donation to Mary Ann Curling for all her work on the Granby Sampler. Michelle Niedermeyer suggested that the idea be tabled until the budget was reviewed.

Michelle Niedermeyer reported that she will talk to the Republican Town Committee regarding filling the vacant seat on the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ON A MOTION by Erin Pirro, seconded by Pam Burek, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Stuck
Recording Secretary